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**AMES** By the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes, and their Officials: Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all spirituall persons: And also to all Justices of Peace, Mayors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Churchwardens, & Headboroughes: And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subiects whatsoever they be, aswell within Liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

WE ARE credibly certified by a Certificate under the hands of our trusty and welbelov'd Subiects Sir Fulke Grevill Knight, Chancelor of our Exchequer, Sir Thomas Leigh, Sir Edward Devereux, and Sir Thomas Holt Knights & Baronets, Sir Edward Greuell, Sir Clement Fisher,

Sir Clement Throgmorton, Sir Richard Verney, Sir Thomas Lucy, Sir Henry Dymocke, Sir William Somerwill, Sir Thomas Beawson, and Sir Henry Rainsford Knights, Thomas Spencer, Edward Boughton, Bartholomew Hales, John Repington, William Combe, and William Barnes Esquiers, Justices of the Peace within our Counties of Warwicke & Gloucester: That upon Saturday the fynth day of July in the yeare of our Lord God, One Thousand Sixe Hundred and Fourteene, there happened a sodaine and terrible fire within our Towne of Stratford upon Avon within our County of Warwicke, which within the space of lesse then two howres consumed & burnt fiftie & flower dwelling houses, many of them being very faire houses, besides Barnes, Stables, & other howses of Office, together also with great store of Corne, Hay, Straw, Wood, & Timber therein, Amounting in all to the value of Eight Thousand Pounds & upwards. The force of which fier was so great (the wind sitting full upon the Towne) that it dispersed into so many places thereof, whereby the whole Towne was in very great danger to have bene utterly consumed and burnt; by reason whereof, and of two severall fiers happening in the said Towne within these Twenty yeares, to the losse of Twenty Thousand Pounds more, not onely our said poore Subiects who have now sustained this great losse, are utterly undone and like to perish, but also the rest of the Towne is in great hazard to be overthrowne & undone, the Inhabitants there beeing no waies able to relieue their distressed neighbors in this their great want & misery. And whereas the said Towne hath been a great Market Towne whereunto great recourse of people was made, by reason of the weekly Market, faires, and other frequent meetings, which were there holden and appointed, and now being thus ruined & decayed, it is in great hazard to bee utterly overthrowne, if either the resort thither be neglected, or course of travellers diverted, which for want of speedy reparation may bee occasioned. And soasmuch as our said distressed Subiects the Inhabitants of the said Towne are very ready & willing to the uttermost of their powers to redifie & new build the sayd Towne againe, Yet finding the performance thereof far beyond their ability, they have made their humble suite unto us, that we would be pleased to provide some convenient meanes that the said Towne may be againe redified & repayed aswell for the reliefe of the distressed people within the same, as also for the restoring and continuing of the sayd Market, and have humbly besought us to commend the same good & laudable deed and the charitable furtherance thereof, to the benevolence of all our loving Subiects, not doubting but that all good and well-disposed Christians will for common charity and love to their Country, and the rather for our Commendation herof, be ready with all willingness to extend their charitable reliefe towards the comfort of so many distressed people, and the speedy performing of so good and charitable a worke.

WE THEREFORE, that we (tendering the lamentable estate and losses of our sayd distressed Inhabitants, together with the humble suit of all our foresaid Justices made unto us on their behalves) Of our especiall Grace and Princely compassion, have given & granted, and by these our Letters Patents doe give and graunt unto our foresaid trusty & welbelov'd Subiects, Sir Richard Verney, Sir Henry Rainsford Knights, Bartholomew Hales Esquier, and the Bayliffe & Burgessees of the sayd Towne of Stratford upon Avon, and to their Deputie & Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence and authority, to aske, gather, receive, & take the Almes & charitable benevolence of all our loving Subiects whatsoever Inhabiting within our Counties of Yorke, Lancaster, and the County Palatine & Bishopricke of Durham, Chester, Denbigh, Flint, Montgomery, Pembroke, Brecknock, Monmouth, and Hereford, with our Citties of Yorke, Chelster, & Hereford, with our Towne and County of Kingston upon Hull: And in all other Cities, Townes Corporate, privileged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within our said Counties, and not else where, for & towards the new building, redifying and erecting of the said Towne of Stratford upon Avon, & the relieving of al such our poore distressed subiects, their Wives & Children, as have sustained losse & decay by the misfortune of the said fire.

WE ALSO COME AND COMMAND you, and every of you, that at such time and times as the sayd Sir Richard Verney, Sir Henry Rainsford, Bartholomew Hales, the Bayliffe & Burgessees aforesaid or any of them, or their Deputie or Deputies, the bearer or bearers herof, shall come & repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske, and receive the gratuities & charitable benevolence of our said Subiects, quietly to permit & suffer them so to do, without any manner your lets, or contradictions. And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curats, for the better stirring up of a charitable devotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents unto our said Subiects, Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good & charitable a dede. And you the Churchwardens of every Parish where such Collection is to be made (as aforesaid) to collect and gather the Almes and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subiects, And what shall be by you so gathered, to endorse on the Backe-side herof, and deliver the same to the bearer or bearers hereof, when as thereunto you shall be required. Any Statute, Lawe, Ordinance, or provision heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

IN WITNESSE whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date herof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster the Eleaventh day of May, in the fourteenth yeare of our Raigne of England, Fraunce, and Ireland; and of Scotland, the fyne and fortieth.

God save the King.

Printed by Thomas Purfoot.

Steward.